



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ALASKA  
P.O. BOX 6898  
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506-0898

Environmental Resources Section

Ms. Judith Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Office of History and Archaeology  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

12 APR 2012

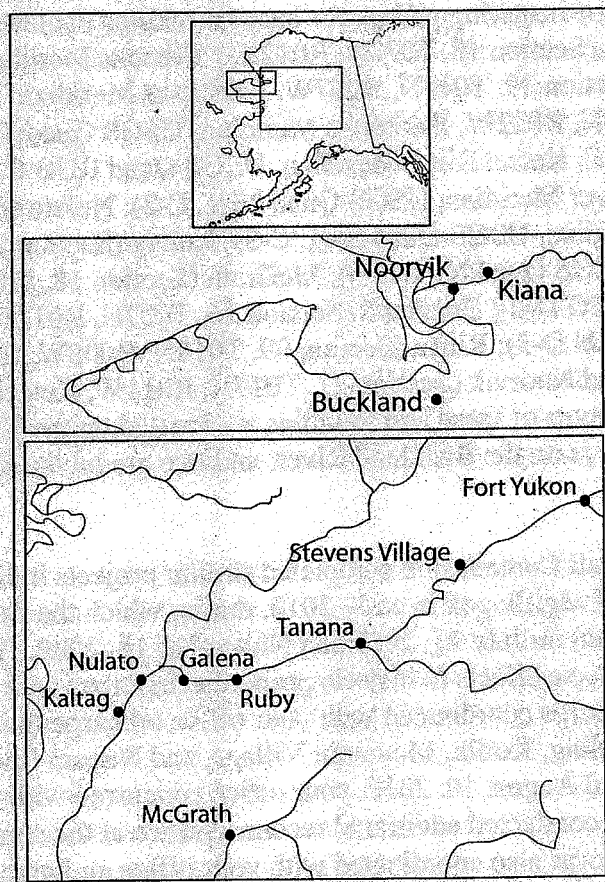
Dear Ms. Bittner:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District (Corps), in partnership with the Denali Commission, will be installing pilings for barge moorings in eleven Alaskan communities: Fort Yukon (Section 18, T020N, R012E, Fairbanks Meridian, USGS Quad FYU C-3); Stevens Village (Section 30, T014N, R007W, Fairbanks Meridian, USGS quad BVR A-5); Tanana (Section 17, T004N, R022W, Fairbanks Meridian, USGS Quad TAN A-5); Ruby (Section 04, T009S, R017E, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad RUB C-5); Galena (Section 06, T009S, R010E, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad NUL C-2); Nulato (Section 08, T009S, R004E, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad NUL C-5); Kaltag (Section 29, T013S, R001E, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad NUL B-6); McGrath (Section 18, T033N, R033W, Seward Meridian, USGS Quad MCG D-6); Buckland (Section 26, T007N, R012W, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad CAN D-5); Kiana (Section 09, T018N, R008W, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad SLK D-3); and Noorvik (Section 27, T017N, R011W, Kateel River Meridian, USGS Quad SLK D-5). Seven of these communities are located on the Yukon River, one is on the Kuskokwim River, one is on the Buckland River, and two are on the Kobuk River (see Figure 1).

The Corps and Denali Commission completed similar projects in the communities of Chevak, Tuntutuliak, and Kwigillingok in early 2010, during which the Corps coordinated with your office in letters received on July 21, 2009 and November 18, 2009. Your office concurred with our findings of no adverse effects to historic properties in letters sent on August 7, 2009 and December 22, 2009. The Corps coordinated with your office on barge mooring projects in Alakanuk, Emmonak, Grayling, Kotlik, Mountain Village, and Nunam Iqua in a letter sent July 9, 2010. In a response dated August 10, 2010, your office concurred with our finding of no adverse effect provided we conducted additional reconnaissance at the community of Grayling prior to installation. The Corps also coordinated with your office on barge mooring projects in Akiachak, Goodnews Bay, Kongiganak, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Napaskiak, and Crooked Creek in a letter sent March 17, 2011. In a letter dated April 11, 2011, your office concurred with our finding of no adverse effect provided we conducted additional reconnaissance at Goodnews Bay, Lower and Upper Kalskag, Napaskiak, and Crooked Creek.

The purpose of this letter is to notify your office of a federal undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties and to seek your concurrence on the assessment of effect for the proposed project.

The Corps, in coordination with the Denali Commission, is planning to install 12-inch-diameter steel piles to a depth of roughly 30 feet at selected locations near the communities listed. Most of the piles will be lifted into position with a crane and will be driven into the ground with a pile hammer. Soils are pushed aside as the pile is driven into the ground; therefore, only a minimal quantity of soil will be removed or disturbed. "Freeze back" piles will possibly be installed at two communities (Fort Yukon and Stevens Village) if permafrost is encountered. Freeze back piles are installed in areas of permafrost by drilling a hole slightly larger than the pile, then inserting the pile into the hole. Clean sand slurry imported from local, active sources is then backfilled around the pile. In addition to a crane and pile hammer, a drill rig and a loader are needed for installation. A minimal quantity of soil will be removed during the freeze back pile installation. These moorings will allow barges to more efficiently and safely offload fuel and supplies to each community.



**Figure 1:** Communities where mooring points are proposed.

## ***Yukon River***

### **Fort Yukon Cultural Resources**

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Fort Yukon (Enclosure 1). The area of potential affect (APE) is composed of two noncontiguous areas northwest of the town. The first area consists of a gravel river bank with a cleared, unimproved staging area that has recently been replenished with gravel at the end of West Airport Road. The second area is near where the Community Gardens Access Road meets the Navigator Aid Access Road and consists of a series of small embayments separated by eroded gravel finger dikes, next to a mixture of grassy and unvegetated vacant land, part of which is used for equipment storage. The downstream end of the area is bound by an unused, concrete plank-constructed ramp

Multiple cultural resource surveys have been conducted at Fort Yukon. Most recently, Clarus Technologies, LLC surveyed the Alaska Army National Guard's Local Training Area at Fort Yukon (Anders and Clark 2010). None of the cultural resources identified in the AHRS are near the APE. Due to natural erosion of the river bank and disturbance by modern construction and alterations, there is low potential for subsurface cultural resources to occur in the APE.

### **Stevens Village Cultural Resources**

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Stevens Village (Enclosure 2). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is on the northwest side of town and consists of a gravel ramp perpendicular to the river with a staging/storage area on the upstream side of the access road to the ramp. A gently sloped, terraced beach of fine-grained soil was both upstream and downstream of the gravel ramp. The second area parallels Harding Road and 1st Street, near a partially eroded dirt ramp which angles down to the river. The eroding river bank rises approximately 20 vertical feet from a terraced beach of sand and fine-grained soil.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted at Stevens Village. Most recently, Sattler surveyed the area for the Stevens Village Tribal Council's Road Improvement Project (Sattler 2009). There is only one AHRS listing in the vicinity of the APE. BVR-00043 (Modern Steven's Village) encompasses the entire community, which is thought to have been occupied since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Sattler noted that historic artifacts were found "strewn among more recent refuse along the shoreline in front of the old part of Stevens Village," and observed cultural material "in the exposed riverbank along the village between one and three feet thick" (2009:3). Additionally, local residents found a cache of historic rifles eroding out of the riverbank in 2005 (Gillispie 2007). Based on the past occurrence of cultural materials eroding out of the river bank, there is a moderate potential for subsurface cultural resources to be present in the APE.

### **Tanana Cultural Resources**

Seven mooring points will be placed at three existing barge landing locations in Tanana (Enclosure 3). The APE is composed of three noncontiguous areas. The first area is located to the west of town and parallels the airstrip. It consists of an unimproved ramp with minimal gravel perpendicular to the river and a staging area. The second and third areas are in town, parallel to First Avenue in the vicinity of buried water lines. The second area is about midway

between the school and Mill Street, where a small ramp angles down to the river. The third area is near a small ramp at the end of Garden Street.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Tanana. Most recently, the Office of History and Archaeology surveyed the airport at Tanana (Thompson 2003). There are four cultural resources in the vicinity of the APE. The TAN-00106 district (Tanana Indian Health Service Hospital Complex) extends to the river, but none of the 12 contributing buildings (TAN-00094-00103) are near the river bank. The two historic structures near the river bank, TAN-00078 (Building 030, COMSERFAC) and TAN-00080 (Building 602, Utility Building), have both been demolished. And TAN-00029 (Tanana Beach Historic Midden, Midden Site), has been determined ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Because cultural materials on the beach have been determined ineligible, there is a low potential for eligible subsurface cultural resources to be present in the APE.

### **Ruby Cultural Resources**

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Ruby (Enclosure 4). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is at the northwest end of town at the end of Ruby-Poorman Road, near a ramp perpendicular to the river with bluffs adjacent on both sides. The second area is at the northeast end of town, at the top of the bluff near a ramp close to where River Road meets Melozi Street.

Multiple cultural resource surveys have been conducted at Ruby. Most recently, Charles M. Mobley & Associates surveyed the airport (Mobley 2005). Additionally, an informative book on the history of Ruby was written in 1981 (Hart 1981). There is only one listing in the AHRS in the vicinity of the APE. RUB-00004 (Ruby, Lozi-koket) encompasses the entire community. Due to the historic habitation of Ruby, there is a moderate potential to find subsurface cultural resources in the APE.

### **Galena Cultural Resources**

Five mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Galena (Enclosure 5). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is on the top of the bank near an earthen ramp in the middle of town, parallel to Second Avenue and between G Street and H Street. Bollards (three driven vertical round piles) are already in existence, and there is armor rock up- and downstream of the landing. The second area is at the west end of town, off of South Dyke Road near an earthen ramp running perpendicular to the bank and landing, just upstream from a secured fuel header.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted at Galena. Most recently, Northern Land Use Research, Inc. surveyed the area for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (Gelvin-Reymiller 2009). Two AHRS listings occur in the vicinity of the APE. NUL-00006 (Galena, Natulaten, Nohtalohton, Notaglitla, Notaloten) encompasses a small part of the downtown area. NUL-00126 (Galena Forward Operating Base) is a large historic district composed of 52 contributing buildings (NUL-00078-00124, NUL-00127-129). Of these buildings, 32 have been determined ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP. NUL-00126 encompasses the entirety of Galena to the water's edge, including the airport. Because the cultural resources listed above are composed of aboveground structures, there is a low potential to find subsurface cultural materials in the APE.



### **Nulato Cultural Resources**

Two mooring points will be placed at an existing barge landing site in Nulato (Enclosure 6). The APE is on the southwest side of town, at the end of Stickman Street. It consists of an earthen ramp perpendicular to the river, with erosion protection consisting of culverts on both sides. A staging/storage area is adjacent to the landing, as is a small partially-vegetated dirt hill where an existing mooring point is located. The shallow beach in front of the landing is shallow and consists of fine sands and silts on top of gravel.

Multiple cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Nulato. Most recently, Clarus Environmental Services, LLC surveyed the Alaska Army National Guard's Federal Scout Readiness Center in Nulato (Clarus 2006a). Only one AHRS listing is in the vicinity of the APE. NUL-00009 (Nulato) encompasses the entire community and dates back to 1839, when the Russian American Company established the Nulato Post. Due to the historic habitation of Nulato, there is a moderate potential to find subsurface cultural resources in the APE.

### **Kaltag Cultural Resources**

Six mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Kaltag (Enclosure 7). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is the river bank which parallels 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue between A Street and C Street, near a landing with two gravel ramps, bound by a broad gravel beach. The second area is approximately 1.5 km north of town, along the river bank near a landing with a long, gravel ramp perpendicular to the river, above a moderately sloped gravel beach.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted at Nulato. Most recently, Clarus Technologies, LLC surveyed the Alaska Army National Guard's facility in Kaltag (Clarus 2006b). One AHRS listing is in the vicinity of the APE. NUL-00003 (Kaltag, Totliletonten, Upper Kaltag, Kahltag, Kchaltak, Kkhaltel) encompasses the entire community. Kaltag was a traditional Koyukon summer fish camp until circa 1900, when epidemic survivors from three nearby villages moved to the area. Due to the historic habitation of Kaltag, there is a moderate potential to find subsurface cultural resources in the APE.

## ***Kuskokwim River***

### **McGrath Cultural Resources**

Five mooring points will be placed at three existing barge landing locations in McGrath (Enclosure 8). The APE is composed of three noncontiguous areas. The first area is a stretch of river bank running parallel to Tonzona Avenue in the northwest part of town, bounded upstream by a float plane dock and downstream by a public boat launch. The steep, 20-foot-high bank is composed of fine sand and silt, and is actively eroding. The second area parallels Takotna Avenue in the northwest part of town, just south of the first area. It is located at a landing with an actively eroding river bank approximately 20 feet high, near the city's water intake system. The third area is at the south end of Park Avenue, just southeast of the ball park, and consists of an actively eroding river bank above an unimproved ramp, access road, and staging area.

A number of cultural resource surveys have been conducted in McGrath. Most recently, the Office of History and Archaeology surveyed the airport at McGrath (DePew and Miller 2007). There are no cultural resources listed in the AHRS in the vicinity of the APE. Due to natural erosion of the river bank and disturbance by modern construction and garbage disposal (the community used to use garbage as a method of erosion control in the vicinity of the first area), there is low potential for subsurface cultural resources to occur in the APE.

## ***Buckland River***

### **Buckland Cultural Resources**

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Buckland (Enclosure 9). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area parallels Cherly Avenue at the northeast end of town, at a bend in the Buckland River on an accreting beach composed primarily of sand. It is served by an access road with revetment rock. The second area is out past the northwest end of town, across from the bend in Airport Road. It consists of a landing served by a small access road, near a fuel header at the top of the heavily-vegetated banks, which slope down to the water.

Multiple cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Buckland. Most recently, Clarus Technologies, LLC surveyed the Alaska Army National Guard's Local Training Area in Buckland (Anders 2008). Three cultural resources are listed in the AHRS in near the vicinity of the APE. CAN-00024 (Roy Thomas House) is a historic building near the second locality. CAN-00046 (Candle Cabin #1) and CAN-00047 (Candle Cabin #2), located near the first locality, have both been determined ineligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Due to natural erosion of the river bank and disturbance by modern construction and alterations, as well as the above-ground nature of listed cultural resources in the vicinity, there is low potential to find subsurface cultural materials in the APE.

## ***Kobuk River***

### **Kiana Cultural Resources**

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Kiana (Enclosure 10). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is on the northeast side of town, located near the confluence of the Squirrel and Kobuk rivers. It consists of three man-made gravel pads which protrude from the river bank. The river bank is steep and mostly covered with erosion-preventing wooden stakes. The second area is on the southwest side of town and is characterized by a narrow, rocky beach and a heavily vegetated, steep bank with an ATV trail that runs along the river to the fuel header.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Kiana. Most recently, Corps archaeologist Kelly Eldridge examined the APE of the mooring points at Kiana on July 14, 2011. The result of her survey is summarized below, and a detailed report is enclosed (Enclosure 11). One cultural resource is listed in the AHRS and is in the vicinity of the APE. SLK-00002 (Kiana) encompasses the first locality. SLK-00002 denotes the area of cultural depressions identified and partially excavated by Giddings (Giddings 1952). Due to the proximity of a

known archaeological site, there is a moderate potential to find subsurface cultural materials in the APE.

#### 2011 Survey Methods and Results

The ground surface, river bank, and erosional surfaces in the APE were examined for exposed cultural material and surface features via pedestrian survey. A small surface scatter of fragmentary faunal remains and modern trash was identified near two of the potential mooring points at the base of a hill; four shovel test pits uncovered no cultural resources predating the modern period. No features were identified in the APE. Additionally, Eldridge was informed by local residents that the "large number of house pits" identified by Giddings (1952:122) were not located near the APE. Instead, residents said they were across from the APE on the opposite bank of the Squirrel River and farther up the river on its western bank.

#### Noorvik Cultural Resources

Four mooring points will be placed at two existing barge landing locations in Noorvik (Enclosure 12). The APE is composed of two noncontiguous areas. The first area is at the landing site at the north end of the community, on a dynamic beach composed of accreted silts and sands. Willows and grasses are encroaching onto the accreted beach. The second area is at the south end of town, on a large, flat landing composed of gravel fill deposited over accreted silt and fine sand.

Several cultural resource surveys have been conducted in Noorvik. Most recently, Corps archaeologist Kelly Eldridge examined the APE of the mooring points at Noorvik on July 13, 2011. The result of her survey is summarized below, and a detailed report is enclosed (Enclosure 13). No cultural resources are listed in the AHRS for Noorvik. However, no cultural surveys have been conducted near the APE, and one report (Groethe 1994) noted the presence of four house depressions. Based on the existence of house depressions in the general vicinity and the known archaeological site of Oksik, located upstream from Noorvik (Giddings 1952), there is a moderate potential to find subsurface cultural remains in the APE.

#### 2011 Survey Methods and Results

The ground surface, river bank, and erosional surfaces in the APE were examined for exposed cultural material and surface features via pedestrian survey. Six shovel test pits sunk in at the potential mooring points displayed stratified silt accretion. No features or artifacts representing cultural resources were identified in the APE.

### ***Assessment of Effect***

As a whole, the installation of mooring pilings at these 11 communities has little potential to affect cultural resources. The footprint of this project is very small; smaller than most standard archaeological test units. Access to the sites is along existing routes or along frozen rivers or tundra—no ground disturbance from site access is expected, and no new stockpiling of material is needed.

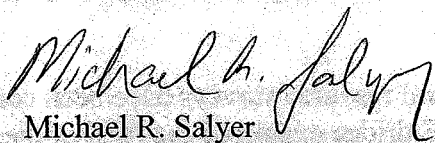
Literature searches and discussions with the community have been conducted at each location to determine the possibility of additional, unreported sites. In Fort Yukon, Tanana, Galena, McGrath, and Buckland, there is a low potential for eligible cultural material in the APE,

thus the Corps seeks your concurrence that there will be **no historic properties affected** by the proposed undertakings in these communities.

In addition to literature searches and community discussions, pre-construction surface and subsurface archaeological surveys were conducted at Kiana and Noorvik. As no cultural resources were identified in either APE, the Corps seeks your concurrence that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed undertakings in these communities.

There is a moderate potential for subsurface cultural material in Stevens Village, Ruby, Kaltag, and Nulato. The Corps proposes a pre-construction surface and subsurface (shovel test) survey of the five locales. If no cultural material is encountered, the Corps seeks your concurrence that the undertaking will result in **no historic properties affected**. If material is encountered, the Corps will either move the proposed locale to avoid the material or contact your office to discuss how to proceed. In the event cultural material is encountered, the Corps will also update the AHRs with any additional information. If you have any questions about this project, please contact me by phone at 753-2690 or e-mail Michael.R.Salyer@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Salyer  
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Cc w/ Enclosures:

City of Fort Yukon  
Native Village of Fort Yukon  
Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation  
Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Inc.  
City of Tanana  
Native Village of Tanana  
Tozitna, Limited  
Native Village of Stevens  
Dinyea Corporation  
City of Ruby  
Native Village of Ruby  
Dineega, Corporation  
City of Galena  
Galena Village  
Gana-A'Yoo, Limited  
City of Nulato  
Nulato Village  
City of Kaltag



Village of Kaltag  
City of McGrath  
McGrath Native Village  
MTNT, Limited  
Tanana Chiefs Conference Natural and Cultural Resources  
Doyon, Limited Land and Resources  
City of Buckland  
Native Village of Buckland  
City of Kiana  
Native Village of Kiana  
City of Noorvik  
Noorvik Native Community  
NANA Land and Resources

#### References Cited

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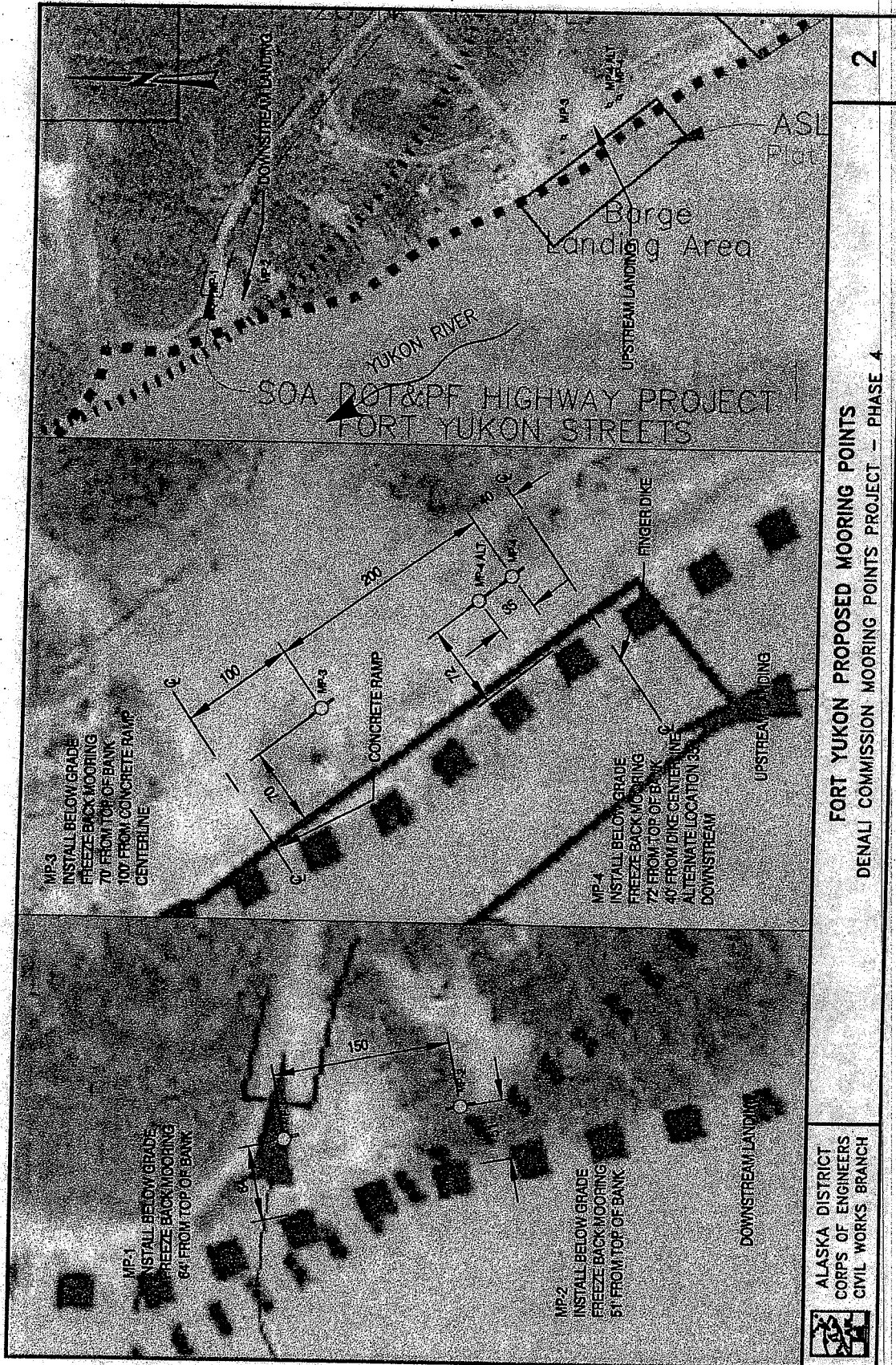
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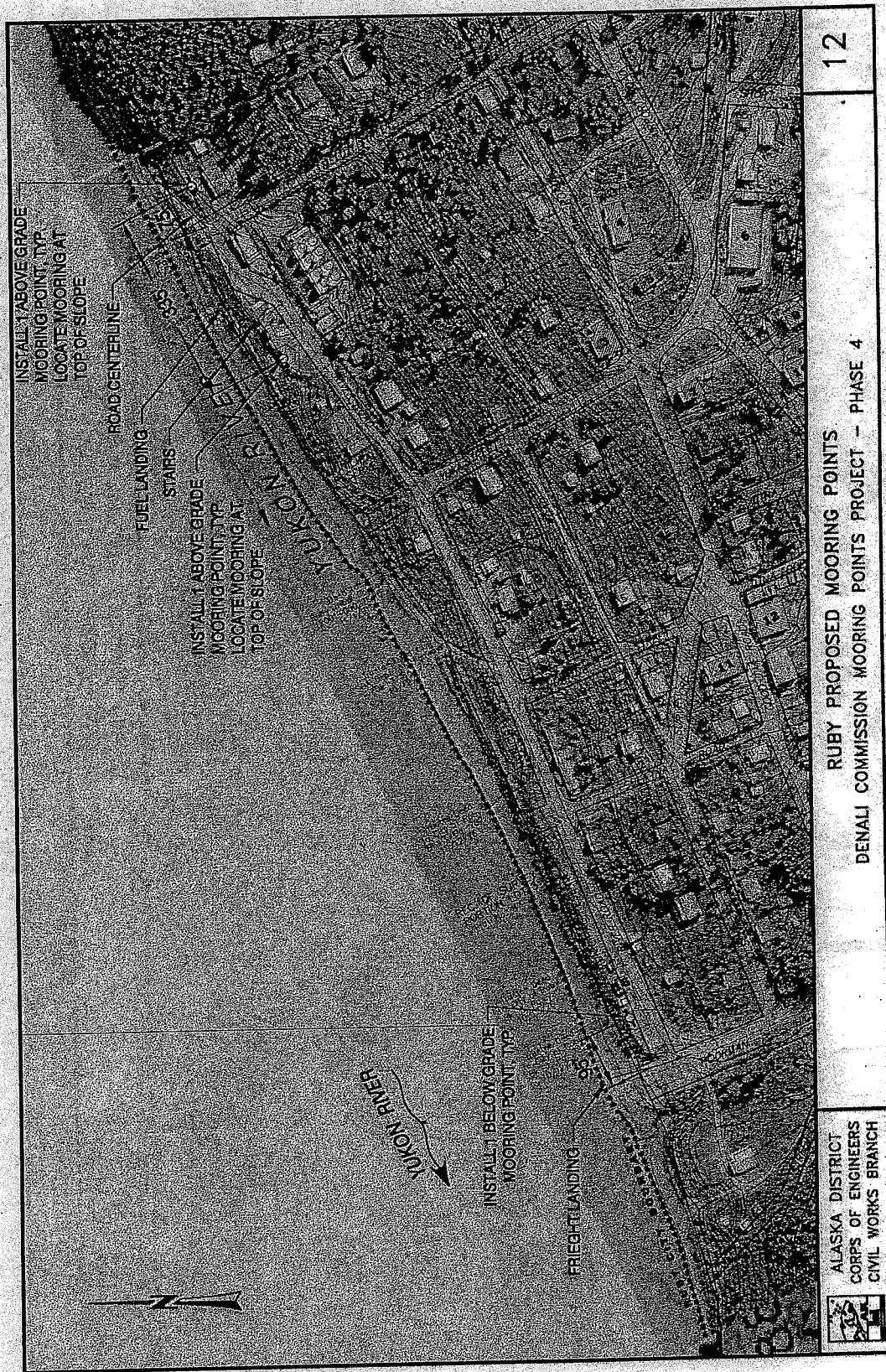




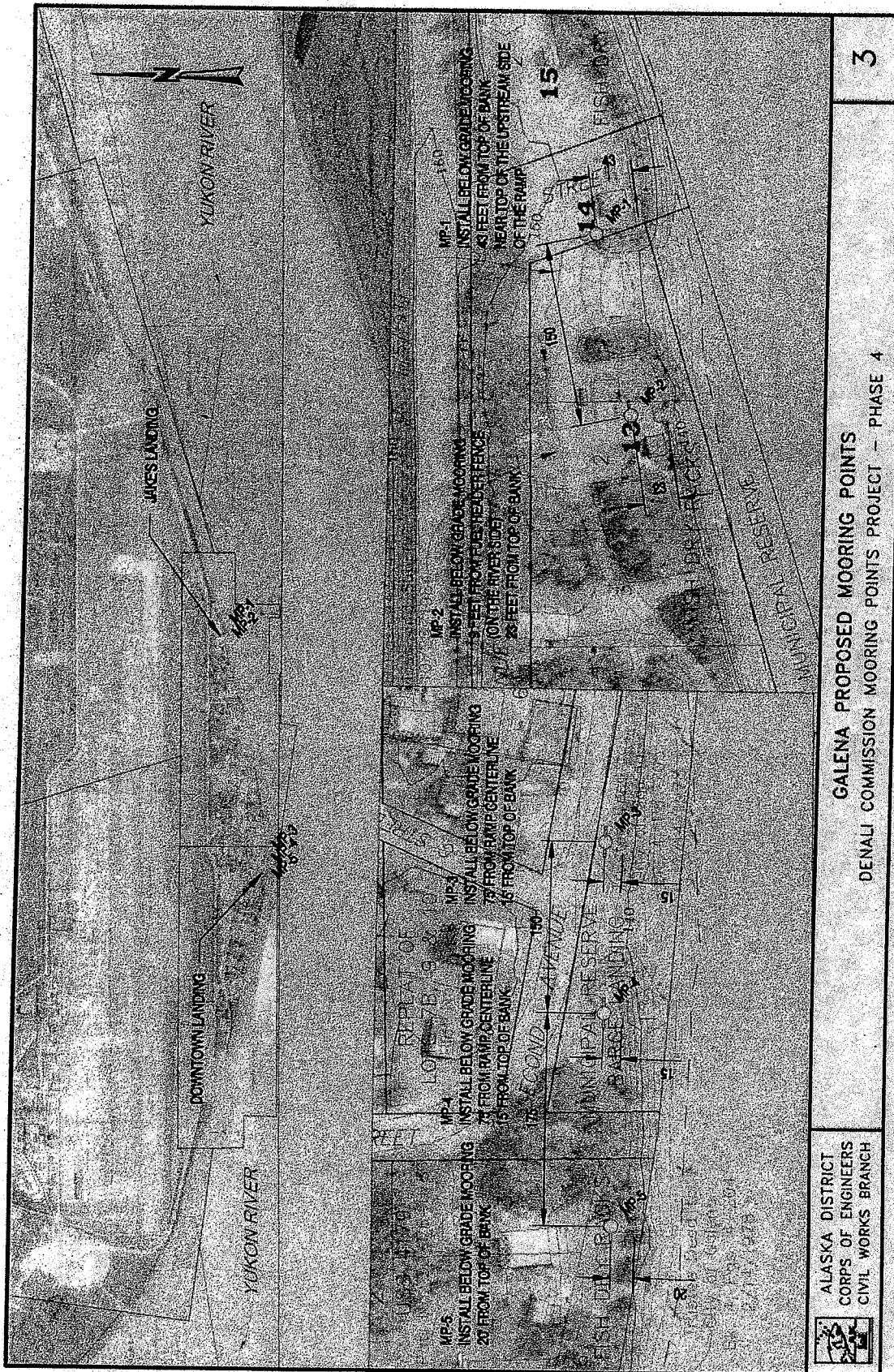


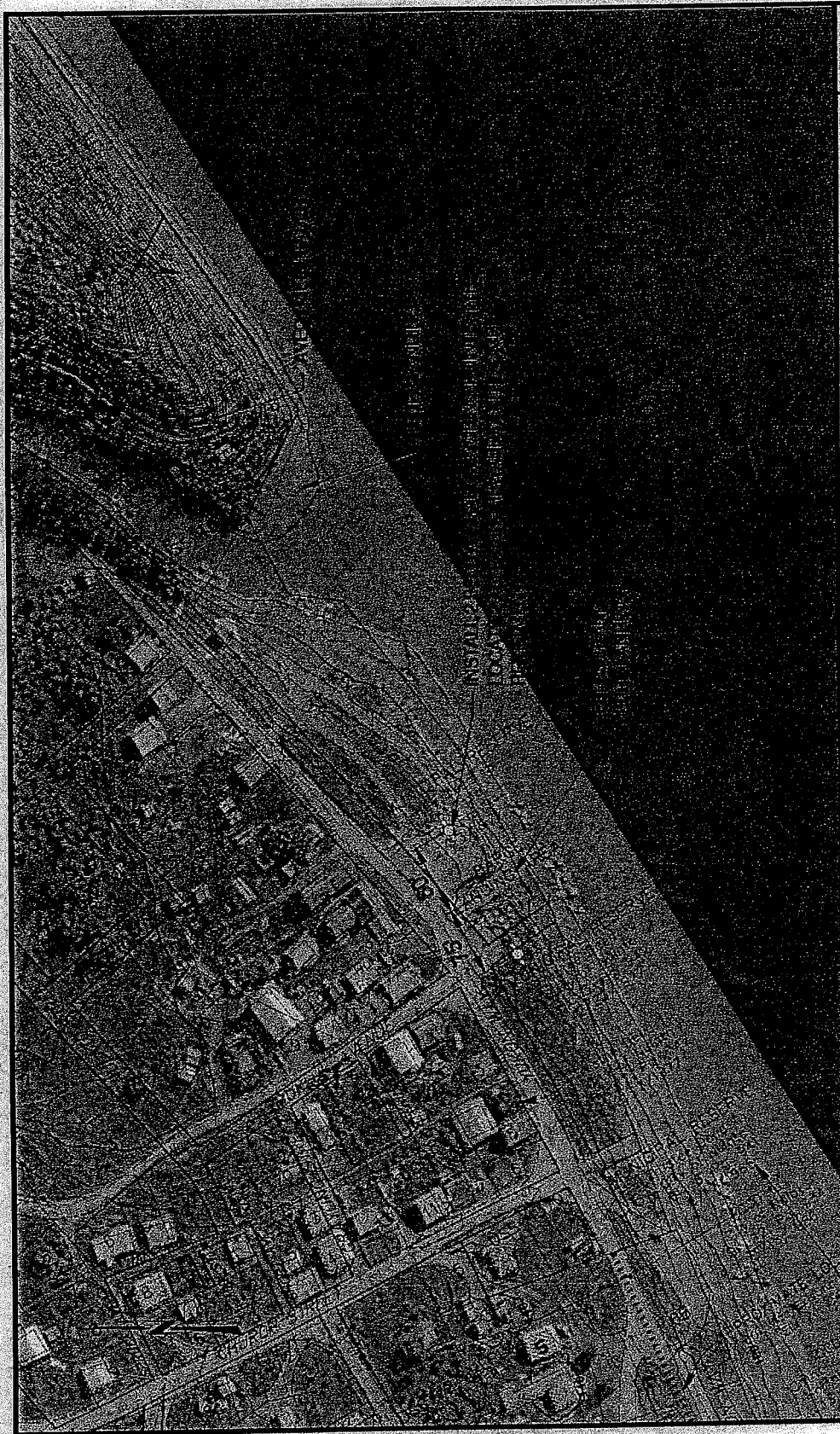










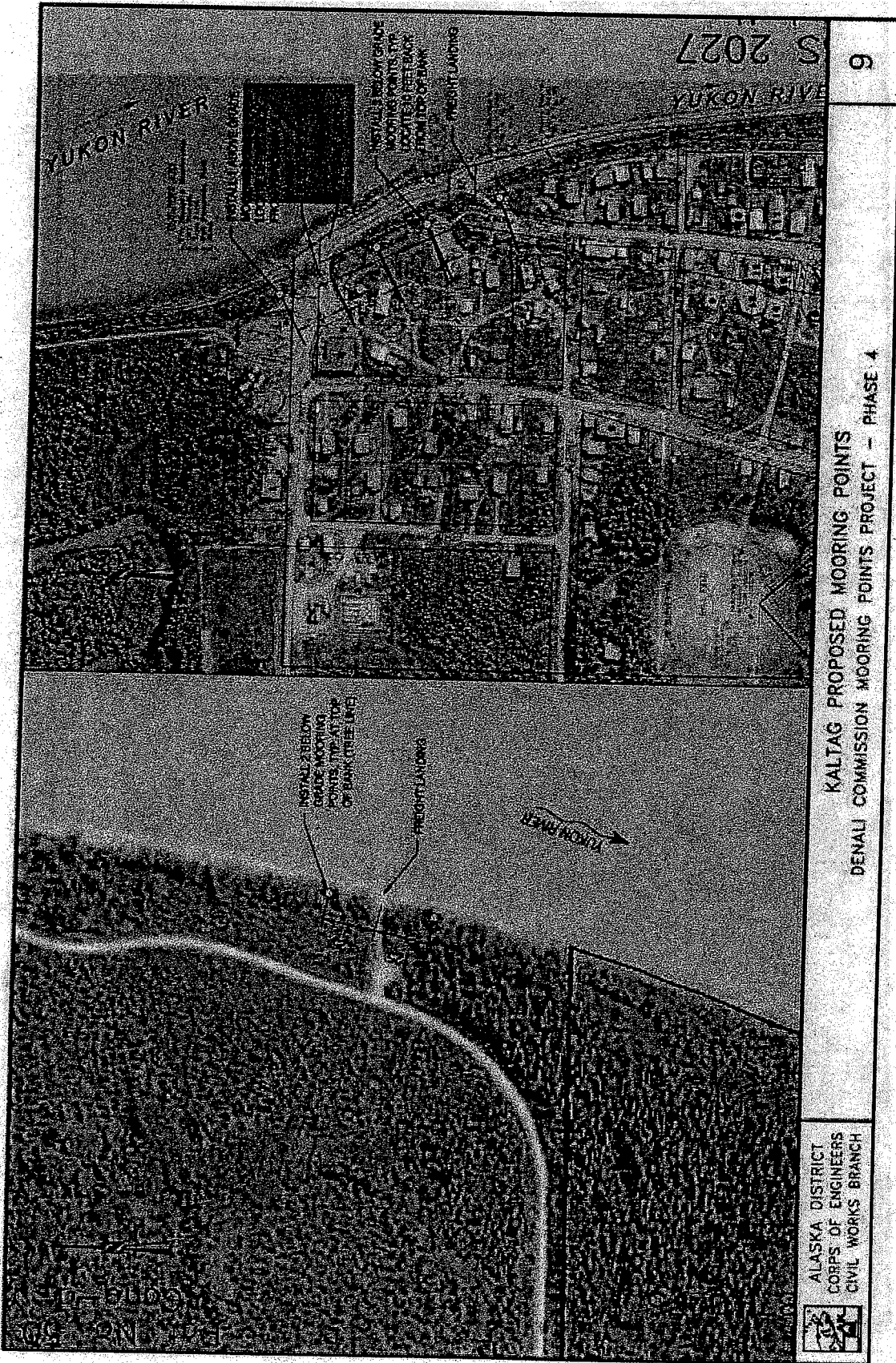


ALASKA DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CIVIL WORKS BRANCH



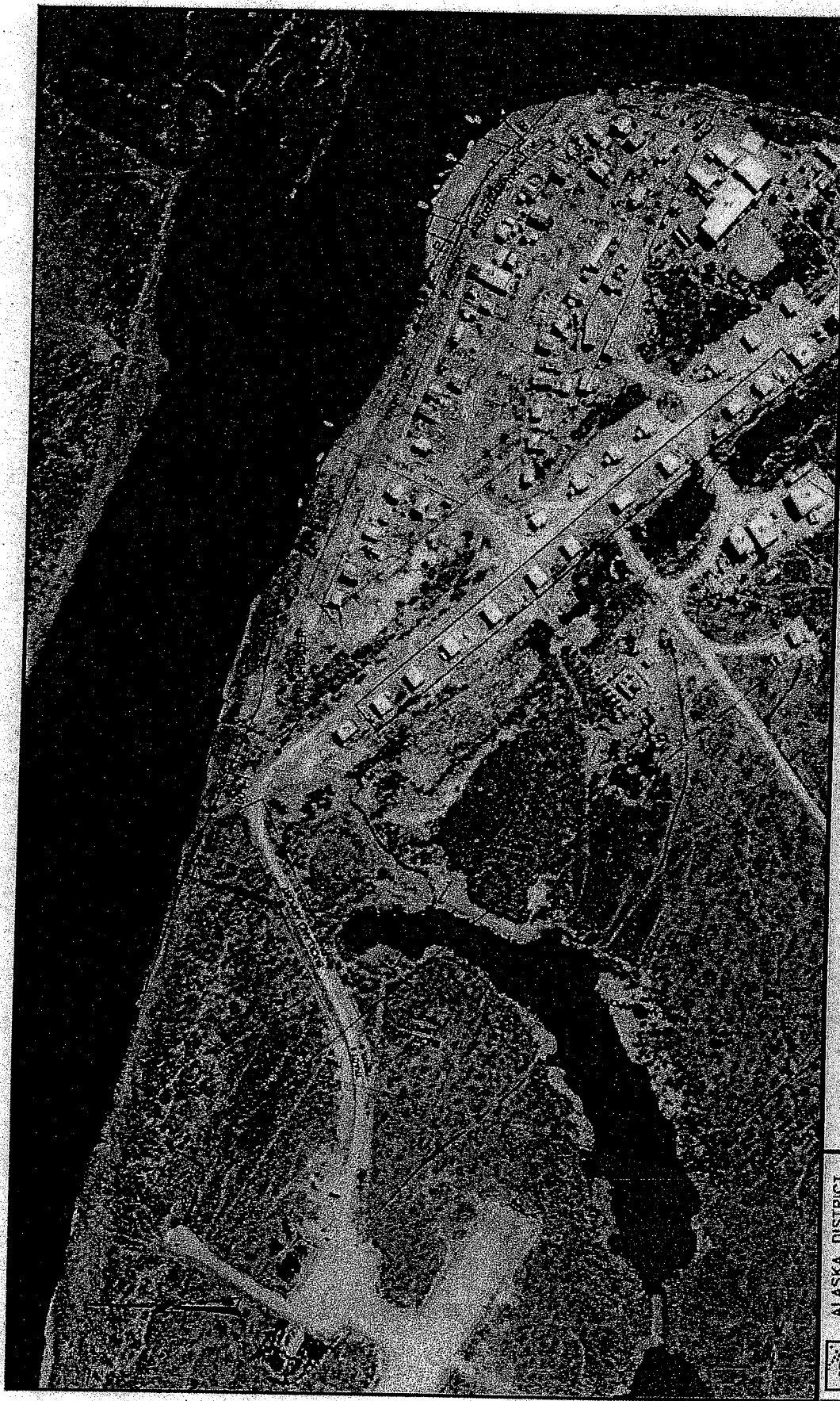
NULATO PROPOSED MOORING POINTS  
DENALI COMMISSION MOORING POINTS PROJECT - PHASE 4







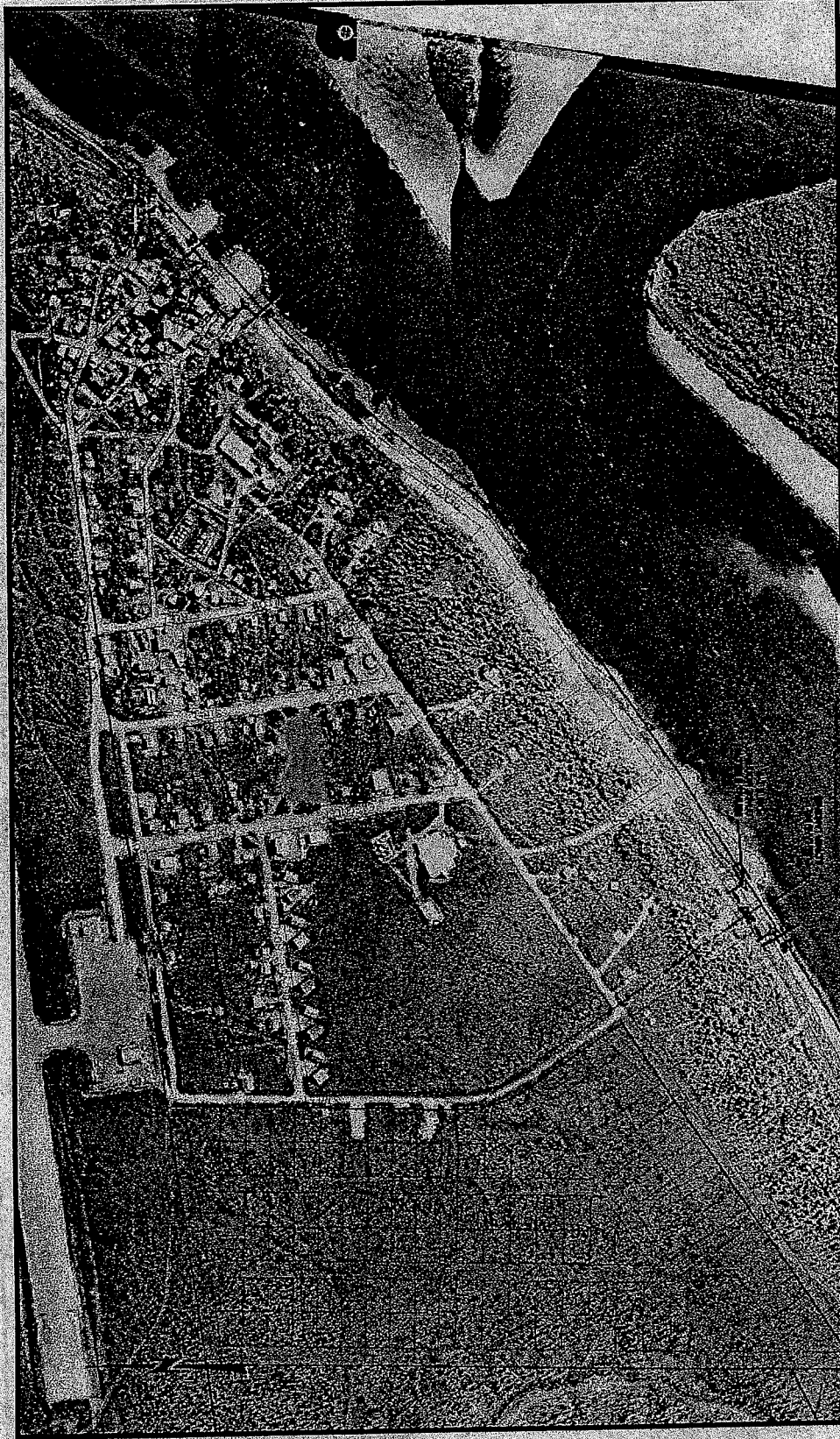




ALASKA DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CIVIL WORKS BRANCH



BUCKLAND PROPOSED MOORING POINTS  
DENALI COMMISSION MOORING POINTS PROJECT - PHASE 4



ALASKA DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CIVIL WORKS BRANCH

KIANA PROPOSED MOORING POINTS

DENALI COMMISSION MOORING POINTS PROJECT - PHASE 4



# Office of History and Archaeology: Cultural Resources Report Coversheet

(Must Accompany All Compliance Reports Submitted to OHA/SHPO)



Office of History and Archaeology  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565  
Phone: (907) 269-8721 Fax (907) 269-8908  
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/index.htm>

Was this survey/investigation (Check one): Negative ☒ Positive ☐  
Negative = no cultural resource sites are reported or updated. Positive = cultural resource sites are reported or updated.

Note: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) numbers are required for reported cultural resource sites, including buildings. AHRS numbers can be obtained by contacting Joan Dale at 907-269-8718).

## Project/Report Information:

- Report Title: Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 4, Kiana Archaeological Survey
- Report Author(s): Kelly Eldridge
- Report Date: April 2012
- Submitting Organization/Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District and Denali Commission
- Project Name and Project Number: n/a
- Principal Investigator (PI) name: Aaron Wilson, Margan Grover

## Geographic Information (attach an extra sheet or cite report page numbers if necessary)

- USGS Mapsheet (1:63,360 if available) \_\_\_\_\_
- Meridian/Township / Range / Section (MTRS) location: (all affected sections)  
Format example: "F021N018E|1314" S09N018W08
- Verbal description of survey area Three areas in Kiana along the bank of the Kobuk River  
(for example: "123 Acme Street," "confluence of Fish and Moose creeks," "Milepost 9-16 ...")

- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for the surveyed area? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for reported sites? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Land owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Answer one: Acres Surveyed Less than 1 acre Hectares Surveyed \_\_\_\_\_

## Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Information

- List AHRS numbers of new and updated sites – (do not list sites that are merely described in the background section).

- Is the report part of a National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 consultation? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Is the report part of an Alaska Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation? Yes ☐ No ☒
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of eligibility? Yes ☐ No ☒
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of effect? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Was this report submitted to fulfill State Field Archaeology Permit requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Permit No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes ☐ No ☒

- Was this project and/or report overseen or authored by someone meeting the minimum qualifications of the Sec. of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44738-44739)? Yes ☒ No ☐

- Is the Principal Investigator's resume' appended to the report or on file at OHA? Yes ☒ No ☐

Revised 3/29/07

## **Trip Report**

### **Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 4: Kiana Archaeological Survey**

**July 14, 2011**

#### **Participant:**

Kelly Eldridge, EN-CW-ER

#### **Summary:**

This trip report documents the site visit to Kiana, Alaska to assess the proximity of any unknown cultural resources to the potential Denali Commission Mooring Point Project areas in Kiana. No features or eligible artifacts representing cultural resources were identified in either of the two potential mooring point areas.

Photos taken during the site visit are located at:

O:\\_Projects by Location\Denali Commission\AKV289 (325271) Mooring Points Planning and Design\07 Phase IV Mid-Upper Yukon River and Various\Kiana\Eldridge Photos

#### **Trip Report:**

Ms. Eldridge traveled to Kiana with Merlin Peterson (EN-CW-HH) and Jason Norris (EN-CW-PF) via regularly scheduled air service with Alaska Airlines and Era Alaska. Upon arrival they were met by Mayor Brad and City intern Jacqueline.

#### **City Concerns:**

The Tribal Administrator noted the presence of the old village site upstream near the mouth of Squirrel River.

#### **Corps Inspection:**

Three potential mooring point areas were inspected (see Fig. 1). Upon visual and pedestrian survey the first area was determined to be inappropriate for a mooring point, due to the shallowness of the river at that point.

Pedestrian surveys of the second and third areas found three large gravel pads sticking out into the river at the base of a steep hill (see Fig. 2). A small surface scatter of fish bones and fragmentary mammal vertebrae was located along the base of the hill, as well as numerous pieces of modern trash. Four shovel test pits were sunk in along the base of the hill at the potential mooring points:

Test Pit 1: N66°58.431'  
W160°25.378'

Test Pit 2: N66°58.436  
W160°25.366'

Test Pit 3: N66°58.442'  
W160°25.343'

Test Pit 4: N66°58.421'  
W160°25.411'

All test pits were excavated to 50 centimeters below surface, and yielded a mixture of cultural materials of primarily modern nature, including animal bones, glass shards, metal wire, nails, tinfoil, foam, and cut wood (see Figs. 3-5). Informants from the village noted that the houses at the top of the hill were built in the 1970s, and that before it was stabilized in 1991, the hillside was non-vegetated. Informants also noted that the seasonal high water mark for the river is at the base of the hill. Between the erosion of the hillside and accretion from sediments carried in the river, the cultural materials found at the base of the hill are located in a discontinuous hodgepodge of depositional events. Any potentially historic material could not be differentiated from modern material. No cultural resource features were identified in either of the two potential mooring point areas.

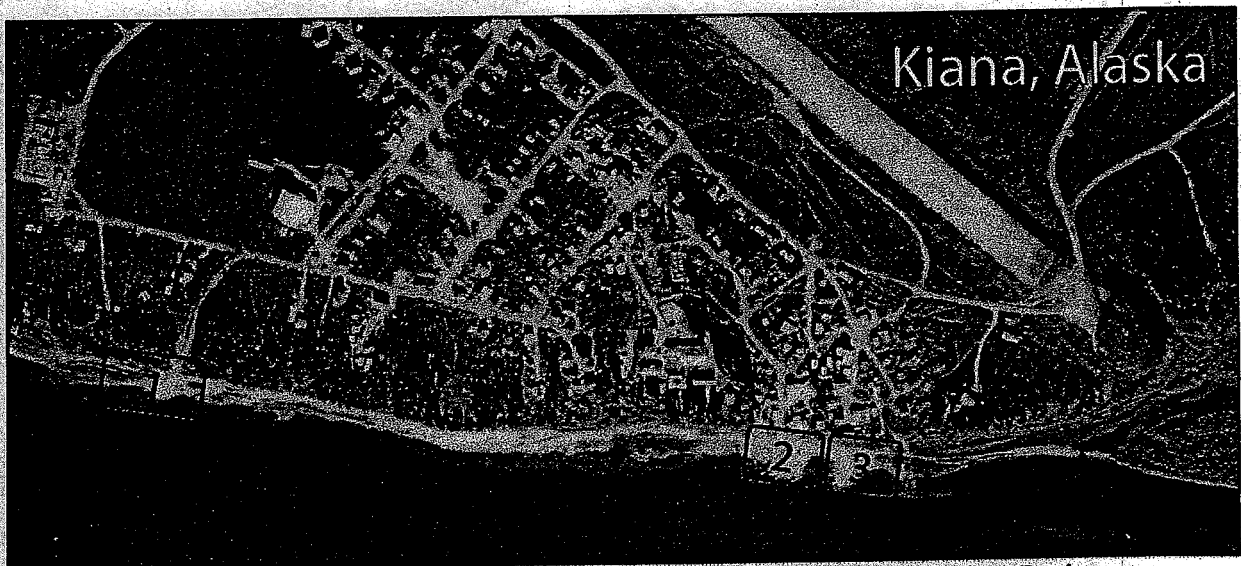


Figure 1: Areas surveyed at Kiana for the Denali Commission Mooring Points Project





**Figure 2:** View of hill with stabilization posts from Test Pit 3 at Area 2/3



**Figure 3:** Shovel Test Pit 1 at Area 2/3



**Figure 4:** Shovel Test Pit 2 at Area 2/3



**Figure 5:** Test Pit 4 at Area 2/3



ALASKA DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CIVIL WORKS BRANCH

NOORVIK PROPOSED MOORING POINT LOCATIONS  
DENALI COMMISSION MOORING POINTS PROJECT - PHASE 4

**Office of History and Archaeology: Cultural Resources Report Coversheet**  
(Must Accompany All Compliance Reports Submitted to OHA/SHPO)



Office of History and Archaeology  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1310  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565  
Phone: (907) 269-8721 Fax (907) 269-8908  
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/oha/index.htm>

Was this survey/investigation (Check one):

Negative ☐ Positive ☐  
Negative = no cultural resource sites are reported or updated. Positive = cultural resource sites are reported or updated.

Note: Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) numbers are required for reported cultural resource sites, including buildings. AHRS numbers can be obtained by contacting Joan Dale at 907-269-8718).

**Project/Report Information:**

- Report Title: Trip Report: Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 4, Noorvik Archaeological Survey
- Report Author(s): Kelly Eldridge
- Report Date: April 2012
- Submitting Organization/Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District and Denali Commission
- Project Name and Project Number: n/a
- Principal Investigator (PI) name: Aaron Wilson, Margan Grover

**Geographic Information (attach an extra sheet or cite report page numbers if necessary)**

- USGS Mapsheet (1:63,360 if available) \_\_\_\_\_
- Meridian/Township / Range / Section (MTRS) location: (all affected sections)  
Format example: "F021N018E|1314" S27N017W11
- Verbal description of survey area Four areas in Noorvik along the bank of the Kobuk River  
(for example: "123 Acme Street," "confluence of Fish and Moose creeks," "Milepost 9-16 ...")

- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for the surveyed area? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Does this report contain boundary coordinates for reported sites? Yes ☐ No ☒ Page #(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- Land owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_
- Answer one:  
Acres Surveyed Less than 1 acre Hectares Surveyed \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Information**

- List AHRS numbers of new and updated sites – (do not list sites that are merely described in the background section).
- Is the report part of a National Historic Preservation Act - Section 106 consultation? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Is the report part of an Alaska Historic Preservation Act compliance consultation? Yes ☐ No ☒
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of eligibility? Yes ☐ No ☒
- Does the report's data support a submitting agency's determination of effect? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Was this report submitted to fulfill State Field Archaeology Permit requirements? \_\_\_\_\_



Permit No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes ☐ No ☒

- Was this project and/or report overseen or authored by someone meeting the minimum qualifications of the Sec. of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines (48 FR 44738-44739)?

Yes ☒ No ☐

- Is the Principal Investigator's resume' appended to the report or on file at OHA?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Revised 3/29/07

## **Trip Report**

### **Denali Commission Mooring Points Project, Phase 4: Noorvik Archaeological Survey**

**July 13, 2011**

#### **Participant:**

Kelly Eldridge, EN-CW-ER

#### **Summary:**

This trip report documents the site visit to Noorvik, Alaska to assess the proximity of any unknown cultural resources to the potential Denali Commission Moorings Project areas in Noorvik. No historic cultural resources were identified in the project area.

Photos taken during the site visit are located at:

O:\ Projects by Location\Denali Commission\AKV289 (325271) Mooring Points Planning and Design\07 Phase IV Mid-Upper Yukon River and Various\Noorvik\Eldridge Photos

#### **Trip Report:**

Ms. Eldridge traveled to Noorvik with Merlin Peterson (EN-CW-HH), Jason Norris (EN-CW-PF), and two representatives of the Denali Commission (Tessa DeLong and Mike McKinnon) via regularly scheduled air service with Alaska Airlines and Era Alaska. Upon arrival they met with City Administrator Sarah Tebbits, who rented her vehicle to them for transportation between potential project areas.

#### **City Concerns:**

None known.

#### **Corps Inspection:**

Four potential mooring point locations were inspected (see Fig. 1). Pedestrian surveys at the first and second locations found that they were composed entirely of accreted silt that was slowly being colonized by shrub alder, shrub willow, and grasses. Shovel test pits sunk in at the four potential mooring points (about 75 feet inland from the eroding riverbank) displayed stratified silt (see Fig. 2).

Upon visual inspection and attempted pedestrian survey the third location was determined to be inappropriate for a mooring point, due to the steep angle of the river bank ( $>60^\circ$ ).

Pedestrian survey of the fourth location showed a wide, flat area composed of gravel fill over accreted silt. The majority of the village boats anchored at this area. One shovel test pit sunk within ten feet of the river bank displayed stratified gravel and silt (see Fig. 3). Another

shovel test pit sunk in at treeline displayed silty soil. The City Administrator noted that the gravel in this area was fill taken from the gravel pit located out past the dump, and that the City of Noorvik replaces the fill after ice tears up the riverbank in the spring.

No features or artifacts representing cultural resources were identified in any of the three potential mooring point areas.

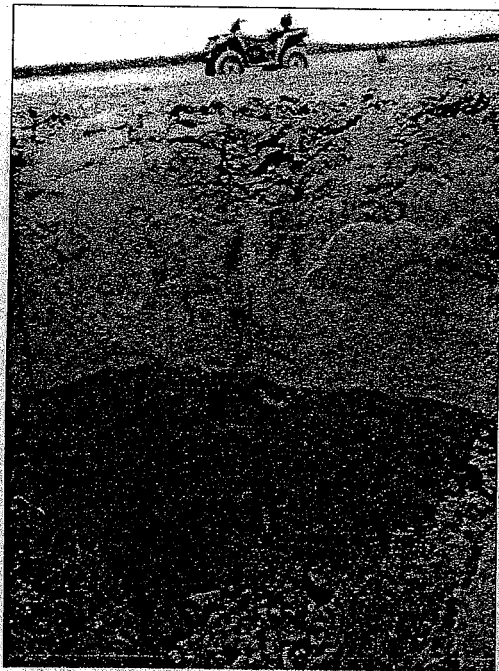


Figure 1: Areas surveyed at Noorvik for the Denali Commission Mooring Points Project

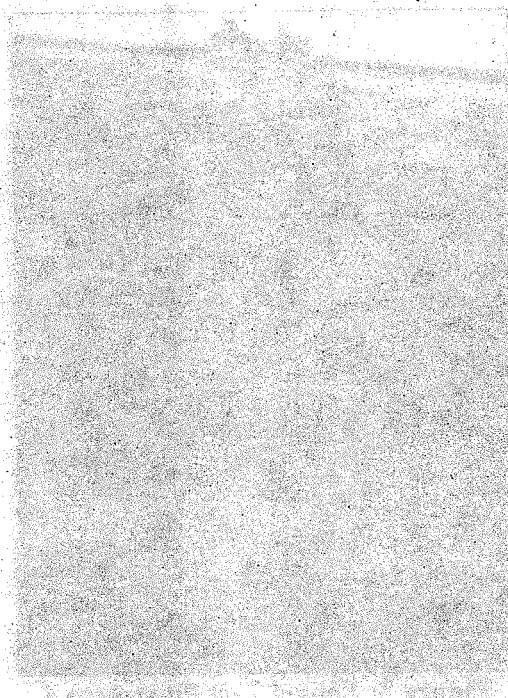
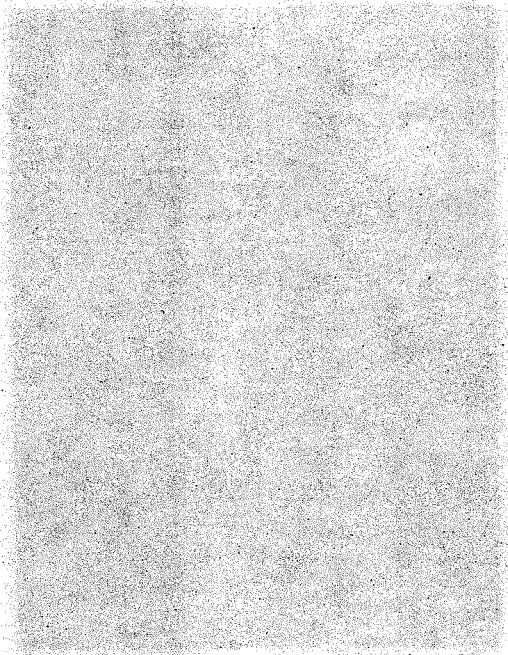




**Figure 2: Shovel Test Pit at Area 1**



**Figure 3: Shovel Test Pit at Area 4**



CONCUR  
D. Walters  
M. Petersen

TYPED: Eldridge/3 April 2012/x2641

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Files\Denali Commission\Moorings Ph4\Ph4 Ltr to SHPO (21\_Mar\_12) WITH EDITS.docx

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Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation  
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Chairman and CEO  
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